

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00

ERDA-05 /066 W

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R 222055Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6443

INFO ERDA HQ WASHDC

ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN MD

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 4800

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, OTRA(SEAMANS, DR. ROBERT C., JR.), AR, CI

SUBJECT: SIDE VISITS OF U.S. NUCLEAR AND ENERGY OFFICIALS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

1. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT ERDA ADMINISTRATOR SEAMANS AND SEVERAL OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS OF ERDA, NRC, THE DEPARTMENT AND US MISSION IAEA WILL BE ATTENDING IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

2. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE ON HOME LEAVE, AMBASSADOR HILL INFORMED US OF HIS FEELING THAT A VISIT BY DR. SEAMANS TO ARGENTINA EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER HIS VISIT TO RIO, WOULD BE MOST WELCOME AND PRODUCTIVE. HE FEELS THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT, POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN U.S.- ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

3. IN BUENOS AIRES, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT DR. SEAMANS MEET WITH STATE SECRETARY FOR ENERGY DR. GUILLERMO ZUBARAN, AS WELL

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AS CNEA OFFICIALS. (DEPENDING ON TIMING OF VISIT, IT IS PROB-

ABLE THAT CNEA PRESIDENT CASTRO MADERO WILL BE IN RIO ON IAEA BUSINESS. NONETHELESS, WE FEEL SURE CNEA WOULD WELCOME SEAMANS VISIT. WE ALSO HOPE THAT DR. SEMANS WILL BE ABLE MEET CASTRO MADERO IN WASHINGTON IN MID-AUGUST-SEE BUENOS AIRES 4616.) DEPENDING ON TIME DR. SEAMANS CAN STAY, HE MIGHT FIND INTERESTING VISITS TO CNEA EZEIZA AND CONSTITUYENTES ATOMIC CENTERS, ATUCHA NUCLEAR POWER STATION, AND/OR ATOMIC CENTER NEAR BARILOCHE IN ARGENTINE LAKE/SKI REGION.

4. REGIONAL S&T COUNSELOR/ERDA SCIREP, SUBJECT TO SANTIAGO'S CONCURRENCE, WOULD ALSO URGE DR. SEAMANS TO TRY AND WORK IN A VISIT TO SANTIAGO. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, CHILE IS MOVING INTO NUCLEAR POWER IN SERIOUS WAY AND, WE THINK, WELCOMES INTEREST AND COLLABORATION WHEREVER FEASIBLE WITH U.S.- AND WITH ERDA IN PARTICULAR. IF THIS VISIT PROVES FEASIBLE, DR. SEAMANS SHOULD SEE CCEN OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THE GENERAL MANAGER OF ENDESA, HIRAM PENA HERNANDEZ. WORTHWHILE VISITS IN CHILE COULD BE SCHEDULED TO THE OPERATING "LA REINA" NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER, TO THE "LO AGUIRRE" CENTER WHICH IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND/OR POSSIBLY TO THE POTENTIAL LEADING SITE FOR THE POWER REACTOR, THE RAPEL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

5. DETAILED SCHEDULE CAN BE DEVELOPED AFTER WE KNOW TIME DR. SEAMANS MIGHT HAVE AVAILABLE. GIVEN NATURE OF ERDA INTERESTS, A ROUGHLY 60-40 SPLIT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND CHILE ON TIME WOULD APPEAR IN ORDER. AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY IN EACH COUNTRY COULD BE USEFULLY PROGRAMMED, BUT MORE TIME IS OBVIOUSLY DESIRABLE.

6. FOR COORDINATION PURPOSES, IT WOULD CLEARLY BE BETTER IF VISITS OF NRC COMMISSIONER KENNEDY, US IAEA REP. DR. TAPE, AND/OR OTHERS TO ARGENTINA COULD BE MADE CONCURRENTLY WITH VISIT OF DR. SEAMANS. POST RECOGNIZES THAT THIS MAY BE IMPRACTICAL, HOWEVER, AND WILL DO ITS BEST TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL SCHEDULES TO ACCOMMODATE WISHES OF OTHER POTENTIAL VISITORS, WHICH IT BELIEVES WOULD ALSO BE MOST USEFUL.

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